

February 2, 2016

Dear Senator Hansen,

Children thrive in loving and permanent families but, unfortunately, that cannot always be the family they were born into. Whether an infant whose parents are unable to care for a child at that point, or a child in foster care who cannot return home to their birth family or even a child born in another country who is vulnerable or orphaned, adoption has long been accepted as a way for those children to have forever families. The Federal Adoption Tax Credit has been a great help to families by reducing the financial barriers to adoption and has demonstrated our National commitment to our greatest resource – our children. Similarly, having a tax credit offered by the State of Michigan, to support adoption and to communicate our desire for every child to have a loving family, is a way for Michigan to demonstrate our support for adoption and families for children who need them.

We hear daily of families who want to adopt a child, to provide the love and care that every child needs, but who can be overwhelmed by the costs both with the actual adoption and with getting appropriate supportive services for children after adoption. A tax credit is one way that we, as a State, offer support and encouragement to that end. Adoption saves State resources in providing ongoing, temporary care for children who are its wards. But, most of all, it saves children from never having a mom and a dad.

Thank you for your time and attention to this life-changing matter.

Sincerely,



Kris Faasse, LMSW, ACSW

Vice President of Clinical Operations